

Caregiver Relief Program

The Darlington County Disabilities and Special Need Board is pleased to announce the Caregiver Relief Program as a new service anticipated to start January 9, 2012 and will last at least until 06/30/2012, for people who are not Waiver participants. The service is designed to provide a reliable center where persons may go while caregivers are unavailable for short periods of time in the early evenings and on Saturdays. Activities, care, and support will be available for those attending, but training will not be provided.

Hours of Operation

This program is available only for those who are not waiver participants. It will operate from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Capacity is limited, so let your needs be known. The service will be available until 06/30/12. Continuing the Caregiver Relief Program after the end of June 2012 will depend on continued funding.

Service Units

A unit is the time each day Monday through Friday (3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.). On Saturdays, two units are available: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday; or 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. In other words, one unit is available on weekdays, or up to two (2) units are available on Saturdays. Each person will have a limit of 19 units for each month.

Transportation

Transportation is available to and from the service center (located at Bridging the Gap Enterprises, 144 Camp Rd., Darlington, SC) and the service is available for a limited number of times each month for each participant. Pick up will begin by 2:30 p.m. during week days, and by 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Return home is expected to be about 30 minutes after the center closes for the day. **Note:** *If the service is only for ½ day on Saturday, the caregiver will be responsible for pick-up of the person by 12:00noon, or for transportation to the center at noon.*

Scheduling

Two options are available to schedule the service. You may arrange in advance for regular days to use the service. This means that each day you specify, the van will come to pick up the service participant. You may also choose to arrange the service as you need. Using this approach, you will need to call the Center (843-393-2224) at least 7 days ahead of the day(s) you will need the service. The advance notice is necessary to allow time to arrange transportation and staffing.

Snack or Meals

The family or service recipient will need to provide snacks and meals (on Saturdays) if the service recipient needs snacks or meals during the time away from home. Bag meals are recommended when needed, although microwaves are available. Vending machines for snacks and soft drinks are also available.

Medications

` Caregivers will need to make arrangements for any medications the person needs to take while at the Center. The employees supervising the service are not authorized to give medications.

Caregiver Availability

Primary caregivers for the person must provide a contact number for emergencies. Someone will need to be at the person's home when the person is picked up and when the person returns home.

Location

The service will be based at Bridging the Gap Enterprises, 144 Camp Rd., Darlington, SC.

Persons who are interested in this service or who need more information, please contact your Service Coordinator, or call Bridging the Gap Enterprises, Day Program Director, Wilton Griffith, at 393-2224, ext. 202.